

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TGEN, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT: US GRAIN STORAGE
TEAM (09.0203)

FOLLOWING INFORMATION SHOULD BE PASSED TO KOVALEV ON
AUGUST 4 OR ASAP THEREAFTER:

1. AGREED DATES: OCTOBER 4-23, 1976
2. PURPOSE OF TEAM: TO STUDY GRAIN STORAGE FACILITIES,
CAPACITIES, LOCATIONS, NEEDS AND PLANS, AS ORIGINALLY
SUGGESTED BY ASST. SECRETARY BELL AND AS NOTED IN MINUTES
OF JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION LAST OCTOBER. WHILE LANGUAGE
SUBJECT TO WIDE VARIATION IN INTERPRETATION, US SIDE RE-
QUIRES REASONABLE INTERPRETATION WHICH WILL RESULT IN
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MEANINGFUL PROGRAM FOR TEAM.

3. OBJECTIVES OF TEAM PRIMARILY TO ASSESS:

---A. STORAGE CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY FOR EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE GRAIN HARVESTS, I.E., SEASONAL FACILITIES.

---B. STORAGE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY FOR PERMANENT GRAIN STORAGE, I.E., FOR CARRYING FROM ONE HARVEST TO ANOTHER.

---C. PORT AREA STORAGE CAPACITY FOR HANDLING GRAIN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

TEAM WILL ALSO WANT TO UNDERSTAND COMPLETE GRAIN STORAGE SYSTEM AND STRUCTURE IN USSR, I.E., FARM, REGIONAL, OBLAST, REPUBLIC, AND USSR GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND CONTROL OF STORAGE FACILITIES AND GRAINS STORED THEREIN.

4. TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, TEAM MUST CONCENTRATE ON ACTUAL, PLANNED AND NEEDED CAPACITY AND LOCATION OF ALL MAJOR TYPES OF STORAGE FACILITIES AND THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS. ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING OF GRAIN WITHIN STORAGE FACILITIES INSOFAR AS QUALITY IS AFFECTED. TEAM WILL BE LESS INTERESTED IN HANDLING AND TRANSPORT OF GRAIN OUTSIDE STORAGE FACILITIES AND SIMILARLY WILL HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN FLOUR MILLS AND MIXED FEED PLANTS PER SE.

5. PROGRAM PROPOSAL: FOR EFFECTIVE PROGRAM, TEAM WOULD NEED TO BE HOSTED MAINLY BY MINISTRY OF PROCUREMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH MINAG, OR AT LEAST BE ASSURED CLOSE COOPERATION FROM FORMER. TEAM SHOULD CONSULT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR STORAGE, CONSTRUCTION PLANNING AND PROCUREMENT IN MOSCOW AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE CENTERS. VISITS SHOULD INCLUDE USSR INSTITUTE OF GRAIN AND GRAIN PRODUCTS IN MOSCOW AND PROMZERNOPROYEKT AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

TEAM ALSO SHOULD VISIT FOLLOWING TYPES OF FACILITIES AND AREAS, BUT WOULD LEAVE CHOICE OF SPECIFIC FACILITIES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOCATIONS UP TO SOVIET SIDE:

---A. VISIT TWO OR THREE TYPICAL STORAGE FACILITIES ON FARMS, AT GRAIN RECEIVING POINTS AND INTERMEDIATE ASSEMBLY POINTS IN MAJOR GRAIN PRODUCING REGION OF EUROPEAN USSR AND NEW LANDS. FACILITIES SHOULD BE SERVED BY TRUCK AND/OR RAIL.

---B. VISIT TWO OR THREE LARGE TERMINAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING ELEVATOR, FLAT AND UNDERGROUND, IN MAJOR PRODUCING AREAS IN EUROPEAN USSR AND IN NEW LANDS. THESE FACILITIES MIGHT ALSO BE USED FOR MORE OR LESS PERMANENT STORAGE. ONE OR SEVERAL SHOULD BE SERVED BY WATER AS WELL AS RAIL.

FACILITIES TO BE VISITED IN A. AND B. ABOVE SHOULD INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE OF EACH TYPE IN THE UKRAINE.

---C. VISIT TWO OR THREE STORAGE FACILITIES AT LARGE PRODUCTION CENTERS WHERE GRAIN IS HELD FOR PROCESSING INTO FLOUR OR FEED.

---D. VISIT PORT GRAIN STORAGE AND HANDLING FACILITIES ON THE BLACK SEA AND ON THE BALTIC, PREFERABLY ODESSA AND RIGA.

6. SELECTION OF TEAM MEMBERS HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED BUT NAMES WILL BE SUBMITTED ASAP. FIVE MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED RATHER THAN FOUR PREVIOUSLY AGREED.

7. SOVIET SIDE SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT THEIR RESPONSE TO THIS PROPOSED PROGRAM IS DUE IN WASHINGTON NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 14. WE EXPECT THIS AGREED DEADLINE TO BE HONORED WITH A SPECIFIC AND DETAILED PROGRAM AND ITINERARY. THIS TYPE RESPONSE IS ESPECIALLY NECESSARY SINCE SELECTION OF SPECIFIC FACILITIES LEFT OPEN TO SOVIET SUGGESTION IN FIRST INSTANCE. CONSEQUENTLY, 20 DAYS NEEDED TO REVIEW AND RESPOND TO SOVIET SUGGESTIONS. US WILL STRONGLY CONSIDER CANCELLATION TEAM VISIT IF INITIAL SOVIET RESPONSE NOT ON SCHEDULE. IN ARRANGING PROGRAM FOR TEAM, SOVIETS SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THEY HOPE TO SEND TEAM ON GRAIN STORAGE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US IN 1977 AND THEIR PLANS TO INCREASE GRAIN ELEVATOR CAPACITY BY 30 MILLION TONS IN 1976-80 COULD BENEFIT FROM MORE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT US TECHNOLOGY, METHODS, AND COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION. KISSINGER

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